

**In the**

**SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI**

**En Banc**

**May Session, 2020**

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**Report of the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the year  
2019 together with the Financial Report of the Treasurer of the  
Advisory Committee Fund for 2019**

**ALAN D. PRATZEL  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel**

IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI  
EN BANC

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MAY SESSION, 2020

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REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL FOR THE YEAR  
2019 TOGETHER WITH THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUND FOR 2019

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To the Honorable Judges of The Supreme Court:

Comes now the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and respectfully reports to the Court on matters concluded during calendar year 2019 or pending on December 31, 2019.

**I.**

**THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY  
THE COURT DURING 2019 BASED ON PROCEEDINGS  
PROSECUTED BY THE OFFICE OF  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL<sup>1</sup>**

**ALLEN, JEFFREY BRYAN, Lebanon, MO, Missouri Bar #58252**

Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.5(c), 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(b), 4-1.15(c), 4-1.15(d), 4-1.15(f), 4-4.1(a), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: January 9, 2019.

**BELL, ALLAN H., North Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #19459**

Immediate suspension from the practice of law pursuant to provisions of Rule 5.24. Date of Order: April 1, 2019.

(Order of Commitment to Jail upon finding of criminal contempt for intentionally violating the Court's April 1, 2019, suspension order. Date of Order: June 23, 2020.) Supreme Court No. SC97784

Surrendered license and disbarred: Violation of Rules 4-1.15 and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: September 12, 2019. Supreme Court No. SC97925

**BELL, STEPHEN G., St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #30286**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.7(a)(2), 4-1.8(j), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: September 17, 2019.

**BIGGS, BROOKE ROELOFSEN, Raytown, MO, Missouri Bar #60139**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction). Date of Order: December 24, 2019.

**BLUEBAUM, ANISSA FAYE WHITTLE, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #56779**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.15, 4-8.1, 4-8.4(a), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: October 15, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Often there are attorneys with the same or similar names. It is important to note the bar number and location of the individual.

**BRADY, SHERRIE LYNN, Pleasant Hill, MO, Missouri Bar #45705**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for one year: Violation of Rule 4-1.8(j). Date of Order: May 31, 2019.

**CRANDALL, DAVID PRESTON, Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #51616**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Kansas); Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4(b), 4-1.5, 4-1.7(a), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: September 3, 2019.

**CURRAN, VANESSA RENE ELIZABETH, Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #53175**

Immediate suspension from the practice of law pursuant to provisions of Rule 5.24. Date of Order: November 7, 2019.

**DAVIS, PATRICK MICHAEL, Riverside, MO, Missouri Bar #34811**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for 18 months: Violation of Rules 4-1.5(a), 4-3.4(c), 4-3.4(d), 4-3.4(e), and 4-4.4(a). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**DEINES, BRANDON WILLIAM, Lawrence, KS, Missouri Bar #62512**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of three years: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Kansas); Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.15, 4-1.16(d), 4-3.2, 4-8.1(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: July 22, 2019.

**DICKENS, LINDA STOCKMAN, Overland Park, KS, Missouri Bar #31331**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of two years and shall only be made once reinstated by Kansas: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Kansas); Violation of Rules 4-1.4, 4-1.5(c), 4-1.16(a)(1), 4-8.4(a), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**DIERDORF, KATHERINE ANNE, Denver, CO, (now Grand Rapids, MI),  
Missouri Bar #63782**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of three years: Violation of Rules 4-1.13, 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: August 29, 2019.

**DOBSON, JEROME J., St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #32099**

Public Reprimand: Violation of Rule 4-4.2. Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**DODSON, JENNIFER LANE, Wellsville, KS, Missouri Bar #60758**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.15, 4-1.16(d), 4-3.4, and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: April 2, 2019.

**ECKERSLEY, SCOTT JAY, Midway, UT, Missouri Bar #58659**

Disbarment: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Utah); Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4(a), 4-1.5(a), and 4-1.15(a). Date of Order: April 3, 2019.

**EDWARDS, SHERRI LYNNE, Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #48673**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.16(d), and 4-8.1(c). Date of Order: July 22, 2019.

**FISHER, NANCY JEANETTE, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #62474**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.15, 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**GARDNER, R. SCOTT, Sedalia, MO, Missouri Bar #33504**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for one year: Violation of Rules 4-1.15, 4-3.3, 4-3.4(c), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: January 31, 2019.

**GARNER, TERRY LEE, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #64282**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**GLASS, MARCUS ARNOLD, Forsyth, MO, Missouri Bar #60903**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.5, 4-1.8(a), 4-1.16(d), 4-8.1(c), 4-8.4(b), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: March 5, 2019.

**GRAF, ERIN ASHLEY, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #58456**

Default suspension from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of three years: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.7, 4-1.8, 4-8.4(a), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: April 12, 2019.

**GROSSE, REBECCA J., Clayton, MO, Missouri Bar #46447**

Public Reprimand and placed on probation for two years: Violation of Rules 4-1.15 and 4-8.1. Date of Order: December 24, 2019.

**HANCOCK, STACEY ROSA, Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #37089**

Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.2(a), 4-1.4, 4-1.15, 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(d), 4-1.15(f), 4-8.1, 4-8.4(b), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: October 15, 2019.

**HEALEA, SHAYNE WYATT, California, MO, (now Jefferson City, MO),  
Missouri Bar #62932**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction). Date of Order: January 29, 2019.

**HERRON II, DAVID EDWARD, Overland Park, KS, Missouri Bar #40394**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Kansas); Violation of Rules 4-1.6(a), 4-3.3(a)(1), 4-3.3(d), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**JONES, ROGER C., Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #35415**

Placed on probation for two years: Violation of Rules 4-1.8(a), 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(c), 4-1.15(f), and 4-8.4(a). Date of Order: June 18, 2019.

**LOVELESS, JOHN BRIAN, St. Clair, MO, Missouri Bar #31609**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for two years: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**MCSHANE, BRANDY MELLISSA, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #44606**

Default suspension from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of one year: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-8.1(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: September 19, 2019.

**MAGEE, RICHARD JOSEPH, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #29943**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for two years: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, and 4-1.4. Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**MANDELBAUM, DAVID BEN, Overland Park, KS, Missouri Bar #35420**

Disbarment: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction). Date of Order: January 29, 2019.

**MILLER JR., WILLIAM LEONARD, Washington, MO, Missouri Bar #42987**

Surrendered license and disbarred. Date of Order: July 9, 2019.

**MORAN, MARK BRIAN, Aviston, IL, Missouri Bar #36057**

Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(d), 4-1.16(d), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**PATTERSON, ROBERT B., Alexandria, VA, Missouri Bar #23542**

Surrendered license and disbarred. Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**PIERCE, VERNAN LEROY, Hallsville, MO, Missouri Bar #64553**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(d) and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: June 25, 2019.

**PINGEL, MANDEE ROWEN, Riverside, MO, Missouri Bar #57097**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for 18 months: Violation of Rules 4-1.5(a), 4-3.4(c), 4-3.4(d), 4-3.4(e), and 4-4.4(a). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**ROBINSON, LAURA LEE, Centreville, IL, Missouri Bar #41723**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Illinois); Violation of Rules 4-1.6(a) and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: June 25, 2019.

**ROWE, WARD DOUGLAS, Lee's Summit, MO, Missouri Bar #61568**

Interim suspension from the practice of law pursuant to provisions of Rule 5.23(a). Date of Order: April 18, 2019.

**SANDERS, MICHAEL DAVID, Independence, MO, Missouri Bar #45608**

Surrendered license and disbarred: Violation of Rule 4-8.4(b). Date of Order: March 5, 2019.

**SCHIFFMAN, JACK B., Phoenix, AZ, Missouri Bar #21551**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of one year: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Arizona); Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.2, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.15, and 4-8.1(b). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**SCHUESSLER, AMBRY NICHOLE, Clayton, MO, Missouri Bar #66214**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of two years: Violation of Rules 4-8.4(c), 4-8.4(d), and 4-8.4(g). Date of Order: August 29, 2019.

**SHEEHAN, JOHN KEVIN, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #29928**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of two years: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, and 4-1.15. Date of Order: November 19, 2019.

**SHOCKLEY, BRANT LEE, St. James, MO, Missouri Bar #64575**

Immediate suspension from the practice of law pursuant to provisions of Rule 5.24. Date of Order: January 23, 2019.

**STAPLETON JR., JOHN W., Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #36170**

Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(a)(5), 4-1.15(a)(7), 4-1.15(d), 4-1.15(f), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: October 29, 2019.

**STENGER, STEVEN VINCENT, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #45842**

Surrendered license and disbarred. Date of Order: May 28, 2019.

**SUAREZ, SANDRA E., Des Moines, IA, Missouri Bar #50491**

Disbarment: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Iowa); Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.15, 4-1.16, 4-3.3(a)(1), 4-4.2, 4-5.5(a), and 4-8.4. Date of Order: April 17, 2019.

**SUTHERLAND, JOHN STEPHEN, Mound City, KS, Missouri Bar #42028**

Surrendered license and disbarred. Date of Order: July 22, 2019.

**SWISCHER, COREY MICHAEL, Nevada, MO, Missouri Bar #52013**

Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-3.2, and 4-3.3. Date of Order: September 17, 2019.

**VAN NOTE, SUSAN ELIZABETH, Lee's Summit, MO, Missouri Bar #41977**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rule 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: March 22, 2019.

**WALTON JR., ELBERT A., St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #24547**

Default Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.3, 4-1.4(a), 4-1.5(a), 4-1.15(a), 4-1.16(d), 4-8.1(c), 4-8.4(a), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: December 24, 2019.

**WAMPLER, DEE, Springfield, MO, Missouri Bar #19046**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for three years: Violation of Rules 4-1.4, 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(c), and 4-1.15(f). Date of Order: July 30, 2019.

**WASHINGTON, JOHN FITZGERALD, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #53286**

Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for one year: Violation of Rules 4-3.1 and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**WILEY, JOHN DALE, Crane, MO, Missouri Bar #50240**

Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.1, 4-1.3, 4-1.4, 4-1.5, 4-1.15, and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: November 19, 2019.

**WOODARD JR., JOHN, Monett, MO, Missouri Bar #35412**

Surrendered license and disbarred: Violation of Rules 4-1.15, 4-1.15(f), and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: June 4, 2019.

**YOUNG II, ROBERT JOHN, Liberty, MO, Missouri Bar #49344**

Disbarment: Rule 5.21 (Criminal Conviction); Violation of Rules 4-8.4(b), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: January 14, 2019. Supreme Court No. SC97054.

Petition for voluntary surrender of license overruled as moot on January 14, 2019. Supreme Court No. SC97541.

## II.

**THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WERE PENDING  
BEFORE THE COURT AT THE CLOSE OF 2019 BASED ON PROCEEDINGS  
PROSECUTED BY THE OFFICE OF  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL**

**CARTIER, DON WENDEZE, Glendale, AZ, Missouri Bar #67893**

(Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of two years and shall only be made once reinstated by Arizona: Rule 5.20 (Reciprocal – Arizona); Violation of Rules 4-1.2(a), 4-1.4, 4-1.6, 4-1.15(a)(6), 4-1.15(a)(7), 4-1.15(f), 4-1.15(h), 4-3.3, 4-3.4(c), 4-7.1, 4-8.1(b), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: February 4, 2020.)

**GRIFFIN, HENRY VINCENT, Hollister, MO, Missouri Bar #29605**

(Suspension, suspension stayed, placed on probation for two years: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(a), 4-1.15(d), 4-4.1(a), 4-4.1(b), 4-8.4(a), 4-8.4(c), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: March 17, 2020.)

**HERNANDEZ, JOSUE DAVID, Denver, CO, Missouri Bar #61215**

(Public Reprimand: Violation of Rule 4-3.4(c). Date of Order: February 4, 2020.)

**RIDINGS, KRISTY LYNN, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #51133**

(Disbarment: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(a)(4), 4-1.15(a)(5), 4-1.15(a)(7), 4-1.15(b), 4-1.15(c), 4-1.15(d), 4-1.15(f), 4-5.3, and 4-8.4(c). Date of Order: March 17, 2020.)

**SANCHEZ, EFRAIN L., Grandview, MO, Missouri Bar #63371**

(Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.15(c) and 4-8.4(a). Date of Order: June 2, 2020.)

**SPIEGEL, MICHAEL MARTIN, Blue Springs, MO, Missouri Bar #49658**

(Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of six months: Violation of Rules 4-1.7(a), 4-1.8(j), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: March 17, 2020.)

**WILLIAMS, GAYLARD TERRANCE, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #33289**

(Suspended from the practice of law and no petition for reinstatement shall be entertained by the Court for a period of one year: Violation of Rules 4-1.7(a)(2), 4-1.8(j), and 4-8.4(d). Date of Order: June 2, 2020.)

### **III. REINSTATEMENT PROCEEDINGS**

#### **A. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

At the beginning of the year, 10 Missouri lawyers who had previously been disciplined had applications for reinstatement pending for processing by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel. During the year, 12 additional applications for reinstatement were filed and referred to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for processing.

The OCDC processed a total of 22 disciplinary reinstatement applications during 2019. The status of those 22 applications is as follows:

Reinstated	<b>5</b>
Denied	<b>1</b>
Dismissed	<b>2</b>
Pending with OCDC	<b>14</b>

#### **Five Petitioners Were Reinstated By The Supreme Court**

1. James P. Barton, Jr., Columbia, MO, Missouri Bar #34782, reinstated on April 30, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on March 6, 2012.
2. Bryce C. Crowley, Rolla, MO, Missouri Bar #64800, reinstated on October 3, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on October 30, 2018.
3. Shayne Wyatt Healea, Jefferson City, MO, Missouri Bar #62932, reinstated on October 15, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on January 29, 2019.
4. Charles Benjamin Kaiser, III, St. Louis, MO, Missouri Bar #34406, reinstated on March 5, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on November 23, 2004. Petitioner's suspension was extended on August 21, 2007.
5. Edward Francis Walsh, IV, Kansas City, MO, Missouri Bar #45046, reinstated on October 1, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on September 30, 2008.

#### **One Disciplined Petitioner Was Denied Reinstatement By The Supreme Court**

1. Dean David Meriwether, Missouri Bar #48336, denied reinstatement. Petitioner was suspended on March 1, 2016.

## **Two Petitions Were Dismissed By The Supreme Court in 2019**

1. Robert J. Schaeffer, II, Missouri Bar #38563, Petitioner filed voluntary dismissal of petition for reinstatement on August 27, 2019. Petitioner was disbarred on August 25, 1999.
2. Jonathan David Valentino, Missouri Bar #56166, Petitioner filed voluntary dismissal of reinstatement application on December 26, 2019. Petitioner was suspended on January 16, 2018.

### **B. OTHER REINSTATEMENTS**

#### **Tax**

Lawyers may be suspended for state tax issues under Rule 5.245. During 2019, the OCDC investigated and processed seven tax suspension applications for reinstatement. Two were reinstated. One application was dismissed. Four applications remained pending at the end of 2019.

#### **Fee**

Lawyers may be suspended under Rule 6.01(f) upon non-payment of annual enrollment fees. If their non-payment exceeds three years, they must apply for reinstatement under Rule 5.28. In 2019, the OCDC investigated and processed 14 applications for reinstatement by those lawyers. Eight were reinstated. One application was dismissed. Five applications remained pending at the end of 2019.

#### **Returns to Active Status**

Lawyers may elect to become inactive under Rule 6.03. Per Rule 6.06, the OCDC investigated and processed 99 inactive lawyers' applications for reinstatement. Eighty-seven were returned to active status. Nine applications were dismissed. Three applications remained pending at the end of 2019.

#### **MCLE**

Lawyers may be suspended for non-compliance with Mandatory Continuing Legal Education requirements under Rule 15.06(f). During 2019, the OCDC investigated and processed 10 MCLE suspension applications for reinstatement. Eight were reinstated. Two applications remained pending at the end of 2019.

## **IV. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 2019 AND ACTIONS THEREON**

**1,733** complaints of attorney misconduct were received in 2019.

The following actions were taken on complaints received in 2019:

- 763** Formal Investigations opened
  - 431** Cases investigated by Regional Disciplinary Committees
  - 332** Cases investigated by OCDC
- 29** Cases placed in the OCDC's Informal Resolution Program
  - [\*See Paragraph A (below)]
- 913** Investigations not opened (*In certain instances, OCDC does not open an investigation until after related litigation is completed.*) Approximately 78 complaints were provided a further review and response by senior OCDC staff, following complainants' requests. Some of those reviews led to an investigation being opened.
- 19** Referred to Complaint Resolution Committee (\*See Missouri Bar Complaint Resolution Activity Report attached.)
- 9** Placed in "Inquiry" status (*These cases were not opened but were monitored to determine whether an investigation should be opened in the future.*)

### **A. Informal Resolution Program**

In this program, intake counsel assigns appropriate cases to a paralegal to contact the complainant, the respondent, or both, to assist in resolving the complaint rather than proceeding with a formal investigation. The program is used most often in response to complaints that the client has not had adequate communication from the lawyer or where the client has been unable to obtain file documents. It may also be used in a case where the complainant has trouble articulating the nature of the complaint, or seems confused about the lawyer's responsibilities or the legal process. The program has been successful in reducing complaint processing time while preserving the attorney/client relationship. Most cases in the program were resolved without opening an investigation.

## **B. Advisory Committee Review**

Rule 5.12 permits complainants to seek review by the Advisory Committee in cases in which the OCDC or a Regional Disciplinary Committee investigated and found insufficient probable cause to believe that an attorney was guilty of professional misconduct that would justify discipline. In 2019, 57 complainants requested review. The Advisory Committee upheld the findings on 22 of these files and issued a guidance letter to eight lawyers. The Committee assigned 13 of the review files for further investigation. Fourteen of these review files were pending with the Committee at the end of the year.

## **C. Fee Disputes**

The Missouri Bar continues to provide a fee dispute resolution program. This program is valuable to lawyers and legal consumers by providing a forum for fee-related complaints to be addressed through a non-disciplinary structure. During the year, complainants were referred to the Fee Dispute Committee as appropriate.

## **D. Overdraft Notification**

In 2010, the Supreme Court adopted an amendment to Rule 4-1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct that requires financial institutions holding lawyer trust accounts to notify the OCDC in cases where the trust account is overdrawn. In 2019, the OCDC received 99 overdraft notifications. Many of these involved negligent or careless management of trust accounts, which were often handled by education and follow-up monitoring without discipline. Some overdrafts were more serious, either by scope of the problem or by the intention of the attorney. Various levels of discipline were necessary in these matters in order to protect the public and the integrity of the profession.

## **V. DISCIPLINE ACTION INITIATED**

### **A. Admonitions**

The OCDC administered 28 written admonitions and the Regional Disciplinary Committees administered 36 written admonitions to Missouri lawyers. (Total: 64 admonitions). In addition, 130 guidance letters were sent to lawyers by OCDC and the Regional Committees. Guidance letters are not disciplinary action, but are used to educate the attorney on ethical responsibilities or to alert the attorney that a particular course of conduct, if unchecked in the future, may cause additional complaints to be filed.

### **B. Investigation Summary**

Region	Investigations Pending 1/1/19	Investigations Referred 2019	Investigations Disposed in 2019
IV	59	156	123
X	60	150	150
XI	24	51	55
XV	45	95	90
OCDC	123	312	219

Region	Admonitions Issued in 2019	Guidance Letters Issued in 2019
IV	5	19
X	21	20
XI	4	7
XV	6	12
OCDC	28	72

## **C. Filed Hearing Matters**

### **FILING INFORMATIONS**

In 2019, the OCDC and the Regional Disciplinary Committees filed Informations (the formal charging document) on 44 files. “Files” indicate individual complaints against attorneys. An Information against one attorney may include charges involving multiple files.

Nineteen Informations, representing 37 complaint files, were pending before the Advisory Committee and Disciplinary Hearing Panels at the beginning of 2019. Disciplinary Hearing Panels conducted 12 hearings involving 23 files. Six default Informations were filed directly in the Supreme Court.

### **D. Cases filed at the Supreme Court**

#### **RULE 5.19**

In 2019, six disciplinary hearing panel decisions were approved by the Missouri Supreme Court, pursuant to Rule 5.19(c), without requirement of briefing and argument.

Informant’s briefs were filed pursuant to Rule 5.19(d), in the Supreme Court in 15 cases. Of those 15 cases, seven were heard because the Respondent did not concur in a DHP’s recommended sanction, six were heard because the Informant did not concur in a DHP’s recommended sanction, and two were heard after the Court rejected a joint stipulation or statement of acceptance of the panel’s decision. Thirteen disciplinary cases appeared on the Court’s oral argument calendar in 2019.

#### **RULE 5.20**

Nine reciprocal discipline cases, based on adjudication of misconduct in other jurisdictions, were filed in 2019: *In re Cartier*, SC98141; *In re Crandall*, SC97967; *In re Deines*, SC97874; *In re Dickens*, SC98076; *In re Eckersley*, SC97724; *In re Herron*, SC98114; *In re Robinson*, SC97785; *In re Schiffman*, SC97770; and *In re Suarez*, SC97745.

#### **RULE 5.21**

During 2019, Informations were filed under Rule 5.21(e) against three attorneys whose criminal cases were finally disposed but who had not previously been suspended on an interim basis under Rule 5.21(a) or 5.21(b): *In re Biggs*, SC98187; *In re Garner*, SC98035; and *In re Loveless*, SC97849.

### **RULE 5.23**

In 2019, an Information was filed under Rule 5.23(a) against one attorney, who was adjudicated incapacitated and found unable to competently represent the interests of clients: *In re Rowe*, SC97751.

### **RULE 5.24**

Three Informations requesting interim suspension for substantial threat of irreparable harm were filed in 2019: *In re Bell*, SC97784; *In re Curran*, SC98193, and *In re Shockley*, SC97654.

### **RULE 5.25**

In 2019, eight attorneys applied to surrender their licenses under Rule 5.25: *In re Bell*, SC97925 (accepted September 12, 2019); *In re Miller*, SC97934 (accepted July 9, 2019); *In re Moran*, SC97718 (denied March 14, 2019); *In re Patterson*, SC97826 (accepted June 4, 2019); *In re Sanders*, SC97646 (accepted March 5, 2019); *In re Stenger*, SC97860 (accepted May 28, 2019); *In re Sutherland*, SC97914 (accepted July 22, 2019); and *In re Woodard*, SC97668 (accepted June 4, 2019). The OCDC filed Report and Recommendations in each of these cases.

## **VI. LAWYER MONITORING**

OCDC staff monitor lawyers' practices in four circumstances, all intended to improve the lawyers' likelihood of maintaining a successful practice and protecting the public. In 2019, the office monitored 17 lawyers in the disciplinary diversion program established by Rule 5.105. The diversion program was created to help offenders who have engaged in relatively minor rule violations, often involving practice management.

Twenty-six lawyers were monitored in 2019 while on probation under Rule 5.225, the rule permitting probation for lawyers whose conduct did not warrant disbarment. Also, the office was asked by the Missouri Supreme Court and Missouri Board of Law Examiners in 2019 to monitor the practice of eight newly admitted lawyers. Finally, in 2019, the office monitored the practice of nine lawyers who have been reinstated subject to an order of probation.

## **VII. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW**

The Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel opened complaint files on approximately 10 individuals and organizations alleged to have engaged in the unlawful practice of law.

Some of these cases were referred to local prosecuting attorneys or to the Consumer Protection Division of the Missouri Attorney General's office. Others were resolved through communication with the company or individual.

Due to the workload and staff resources of OCDC, the office focused its efforts on conducting in-depth investigations in those cases where it appeared that widespread consumer fraud was occurring. Where appropriate, the office conducted investigations of complaints, and the office referred the materials to law enforcement for criminal prosecution as OCDC is only authorized to seek a civil injunction against a party for engaging in the unauthorized practice of law.

## **VIII. PRESENTATIONS BY OCDC STAFF**

During 2019, OCDC staff gave 27 presentations at Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars. The OCDC staff gave presentations to the following organizations: ACTEC; Association of Legal Administrators; Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis; Bryan Cave; Buchanan County Bar Association; Cullan & Cullan Law Firm; Gray Ritter; Legal Services of Eastern Missouri; Missouri Department of Corrections; Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations – Employment Security; Missouri Department of Revenue; Missouri Department of Workers' Compensation; Missouri Paralegal Association; Richard Fink, Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee; Springfield

Metropolitan Bar Association; St. Louis University – Law School; United States District Court – Eastern District of Missouri; and University of Missouri – Kansas City. The OCDC staff also spoke at the Missouri Bar’s Solo and Small Firm Conference, The Missouri Bar Annual Meeting, several Missouri Bar telephone CLEs and webinars, and many other CLE presentations sponsored by the Missouri Bar and other organizations.

## **IX. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES IN 2019**

### **Disciplinary Case Processing**

The Supreme Court has established timeline standards for the disposition of pending cases that seek to complete 75% of investigations within six months and 90% of investigations within one year. During 2019, the OCDC and the disciplinary system did not meet the timeline standards during the first, second or third quarters of the year, but met both timeline standards in the fourth quarter of the year.

### **Policy regarding Frequent Complaint Recipients**

The OCDC devotes a significant amount of its resources to complaints against attorneys who are frequent complaint recipients (FCR attorneys). In an effort to address this issue, the OCDC adopted a policy intended to identify and meet with FCR attorneys in order to discuss and address law practice management issues and any other issues that affect the FCR attorney’s practice and contribute to client complaints. In addition, the FCR meetings are intended to inform the attorney regarding the disciplinary process and the system of progressive discipline adhered to by the Supreme Court and the OCDC. During 2019, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel continued to meet with FCR attorneys pursuant to this policy.

### **Law Practice Management Course**

For the past several years, with the support and approval of the Supreme Court, the OCDC has worked with The Missouri Bar to present a comprehensive program to address the issues raised by the lack of law practice management skills among a few members of the Bar whose clients have repeatedly complained about them. This cooperative effort resulted in the development of a practice management course staffed by a distinguished faculty of lawyers. In 2019, the course was offered as a full-day in-person session at the OCDC’s office in Jefferson City, Missouri. Thirty-one (31) lawyers attended the course in 2019. Those attorneys who attended the course in 2019 also participate in periodic interactive discussion groups during the following year to track their progress in meeting their law practice management goals established during the program.

## **Staff Training**

In 2019, the OCDC attorney staff participated in training by attending conferences offered by The Missouri Bar, the National Organization of Bar Counsel and the American Bar Association – Center for Professional Responsibility. Paralegals at the OCDC attended and presented training through the Missouri Paralegal Association and the Organization of Bar Investigators, an organization affiliated with the National Organization of Bar Counsel.

## **Supreme Court Rule 4**

The Court entered an Order dated July 23, 2018 and effective January 1, 2019 amending Rule 4-1.15 (Trust Accounts and Property of Others) to permit an advanced flat fee which does not exceed \$2,000 to be deposited in an account other than the client trust account. A new Comment [20] states that “even though an advanced flat fee that will be promptly paid and which does not exceed \$2,000 may be placed directly into the office operating account, if the attorney-client relationship is terminated prior to the advanced flat fee being earned then any unearned portion of the advanced fee shall be refunded. The Order also amends Comment [5] of the Rule to provide that waiting 10 days after a deposit is made into a trust account is presumed to be a reasonable period for purposes of the “good funds” requirement, unless a lawyer has actual notice of a reason to wait longer on a specific deposit. The Order also amends Comment [6] of the Rule to provide that a disbursement of funds belonging to the lawyer within a period of one month after a fee is earned and paid shall be presumed to be reasonably prompt for purposes of Rule 4-1.15(b). In addition, a longer period may be considered reasonably prompt, in some circumstances.

The Court entered an Order dated July 19, 2019 and effective that same date, adopting a new subdivision (g) of Rule 4-8.4 (Misconduct) and a new paragraph [4] of the Comments to Rule 4-8.4 (Misconduct). The new subdivision (g) prohibits lawyers from manifesting by words or conduct, in representing a client, bias or prejudice, or from engaging in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, sex, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, or marital status. The new subdivision (g) does not preclude legitimate advocacy when these factors are issues and does not limit the ability of a lawyer to accept, decline, or withdraw from a representation in accordance with Rule 4-1.16. Comment [4] offers definitions and examples of “harassment” as used in the new Rule 4-8.4(g).

The Court entered an Order dated November 19, 2019 and effective that same date, amending Rule 4-3.4 by adopting a new heading title and adopting new Comments 4 and 5 to the Rule. The new heading title reads, “Duties to Opposing Party and Counsel and Ethical Obligation to Follow Court Orders and Rules.” The new Comment 4 provides lawyers have an ethical duty to comply with court orders in both their professional and

personal capacities. As an example, a lawyer's failure to comply with court-ordered child support obligations may violate Rule 3.4(c) or other rules of professional conduct.

## **Supreme Court Rule 5**

On October 2, 2018, the Court entered an Order adopting a new subdivision (f) of Rule 5.21 (Interim Suspension and Final Discipline for Criminal Activities), effective January 1, 2019. The new subdivision (f) permits the chief disciplinary counsel to defer making a recommendation concerning a lawyer subject to discipline as provided in Rule 5.21 pending the lawyer's successful or unsuccessful completion of a treatment court program and permits the chief disciplinary counsel to consider the lawyer's successful or unsuccessful completion of a treatment court program in such recommendation.

On September 3, 2019, the Court approved an Advisory Committee Regulation relating to Rule 5.02 and 5.04. The Regulation prohibits any disciplinary hearing officers or regional disciplinary committee member, who is an attorney, from representing anyone involved in any Missouri attorney discipline matter, in that matter. The Regulation also prohibits members of those lawyers' firms from that representation unless the attorney who is a disciplinary hearing officer or regional disciplinary committee member is screened in the manner set forth in Rule 4-1.11(b).

On October 22, 2018, the Court amended Rule 5.31 (Records of Investigations and Formal Proceedings), effective January 1, 2019. The amended rule adopts a new regulation that addresses procedures for media coverage of disciplinary proceedings as well as the location of disciplinary records.

On October 29, 2019, the Court amended Rule 5.225(b)(3) to provide that a standard condition of probation shall be that the lawyer submit to one or more examinations of practices and records related to compliance with Rules 4-1.145, 4-1.15 and 4-1.155 governing safekeeping property, IOLTA and trust accounts.

On October 29, 2019, the Court amended Rule 5.25 by adopting a new heading title that reads, "Consent to Disbarment by Voluntary Surrender." In addition, the Court adopted a new subsection (c) to Rule 5.25. The new subsection (c) provides that if a lawyer formally asserts during a surrender proceeding that the lawyer is unable to competently represent the interests of clients by reason of physical or mental condition or because of addiction to drugs or intoxicants, such evidence shall be sufficient to meet the requirements for interim suspension under Rule 5.24 and the Court may, without further process, suspend the lawyer's license under Rule 5.24.

On December 18, 2018, the Court entered an Order amending subdivision (e) of Rule 5.21 (Interim Suspension and Final Discipline for Criminal Activities), effective

January 1, 2019. The amended subdivision (e) deletes the requirement that the final disposition of a criminal case be “adverse to the lawyer” in order for the chief disciplinary counsel to file an information in the Court and for the Court to impose discipline against the lawyer.

On June 2, 2020, the Court entered an Order adopting a new Rule 5.28(c) that requires lawyers applying for reinstatement of their law license to complete continuing legal education credit hours for programs, seminars, and activities devoted exclusively to explicit or implicit bias, diversity, inclusion or cultural competency.

### **Supreme Court Rule 6**

The Court entered an Order dated December 18, 2018, effective January 1, 2019 establishing a pilot project to permit lawyers in good standing to apply for annual enrollment fee waivers if the lawyer agrees to provide only pro bono services with an approved legal assistance organization and has taken part in any required training. Per a second order dated December 18, 2018, that amendment to Rule 6.01(o) became fully effective on January 1, 2020.

The Court entered an Order dated April 30, 2019 and effective November 1, 2019 adopting a new subdivision (b) of Rule 6.03 (Election to Become Inactive). The new subdivision (b) increases the annual fee to be paid by inactive lawyers to the clerk of the Court to \$100.

The Court entered an Order dated November 15, 2019 and effective that same date adopting new provisions of Rule 6.06 and 15.05 requiring that lawyers seeking to return to active status complete one credit hour of accredited programs and activities devoted exclusively to cultural competency, diversity, inclusion, and implicit bias

The Court entered an Order dated December 24, 2019 and effective that same date approving a revised form for lawyers seeking to return to active practice.

### **Supreme Court Rule 15**

The Court entered an Order dated June 30, 2019 and effective July 1, 2019 adopting a new subdivision (e) of Rule 15.05 (Continuing Legal Education Requirements), effective July 1, 2019. The new subdivision (e) requires lawyers to annually complete one credit hour of accredited programs and activities devoted exclusively to cultural competency, diversity, inclusion, and implicit bias, unless the lawyer has not actively practiced law in Missouri during the period or has given notice of inactive status pursuant to Rule 6.03.

The Court entered an Order dated December 31, 2019, and effective July 1, 2020 providing that lawyers who fail to timely report annual completion of MCLE requirements under Rule 15.06(b) shall be assessed a \$200 late filing fee. The late fee for compliance before the end of each successive month after August 31 shall increase by \$50.00 until a lawyer establishes compliance with Rule 15. The maximum late filing fee under this subsection is \$500.00.

## **Orders Relating to COVID 19**

The Court has entered numerous orders relating to court access and practicing law during the COVID 19 pandemic. Specifically related to Rules 5 and 15, the following orders were entered:

On March 23, 2020, the Court entered an Order effective that same date, relating to Rules 15.01 and 15.06. That Order extended the reporting deadline for 2019-2020 MCLE compliance from July 31, 2020 to October 31, 2020.

On May 13, 2020, the Court entered an Order effective May 16, 2020 applying its May 4, 2020 order (regarding operational directives for easing COVID-19 restrictions on in-person proceedings) to disciplinary hearing panel proceedings held in accordance with Rule 5.15. The order establishes that disciplinary hearings shall be conducted utilizing all available remote technologies, including teleconferencing and videoconferencing, until such time as the circuit court in the jurisdiction in which the disciplinary hearing panel would otherwise convene is in Operational Phase Three. Thereafter, the Advisory Committee, in coordination with Legal Ethics Counsel, shall have discretion, on a case-by-case basis, as to whether disciplinary hearing panel proceedings are conducted in person. This Order will remain in effect until rescinded or amended by order of this Court as circumstances warrant.

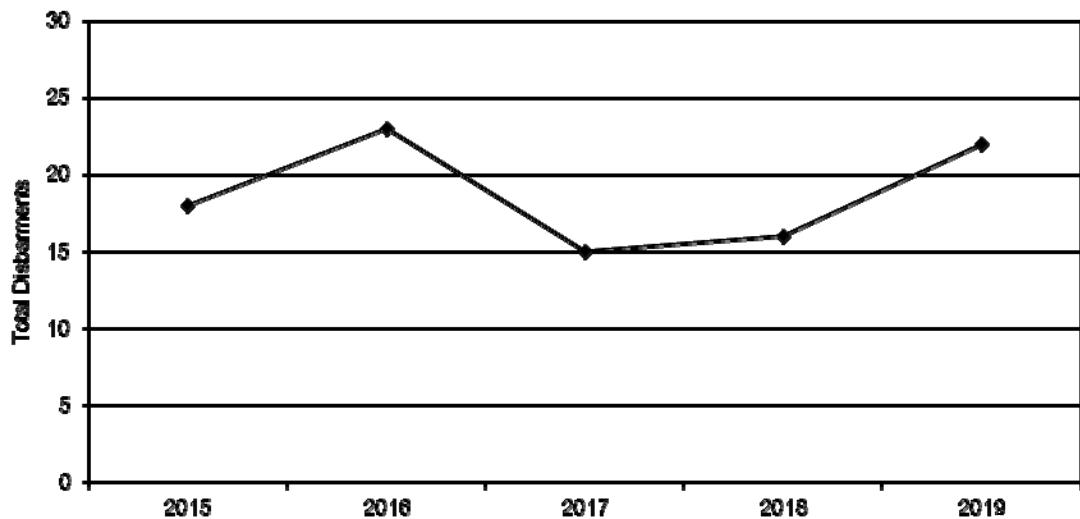
## **SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINE ACTIONS**

During 2019:

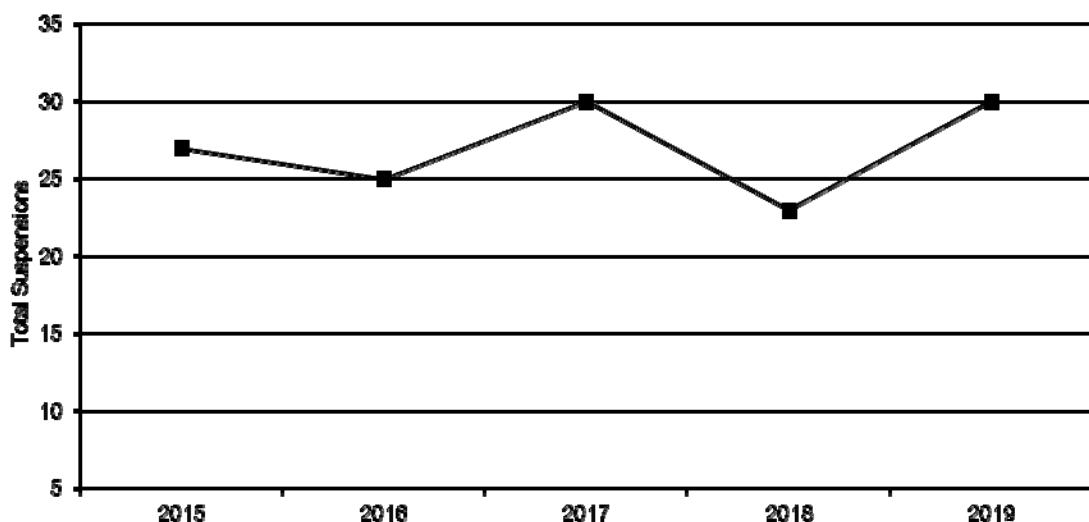
- **22** Twenty-two lawyers were disbarred;
- **30** Thirty lawyers were suspended; **eight** of those suspensions were stayed and attorneys placed on probation with conditions;
- **2** Two lawyers were placed on probation where no suspension was imposed;
- **2** Two lawyers received public reprimands; and
- **64** Sixty-four written admonitions were administered by the Regional Disciplinary Committees and the OCDC.

On occasion, other pending complaints against a lawyer are dismissed upon that lawyer's disbarment or suspension.

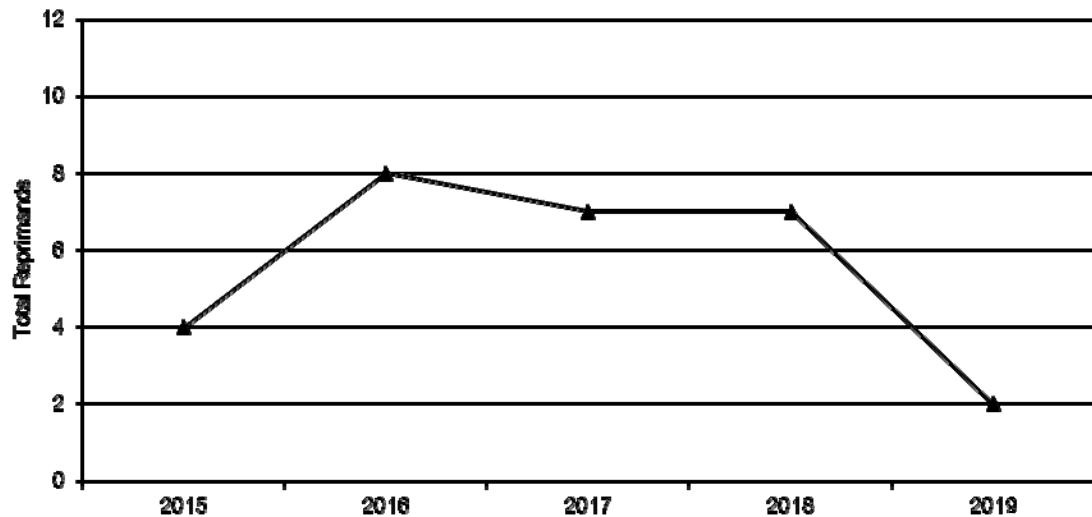
### **Disbarments**



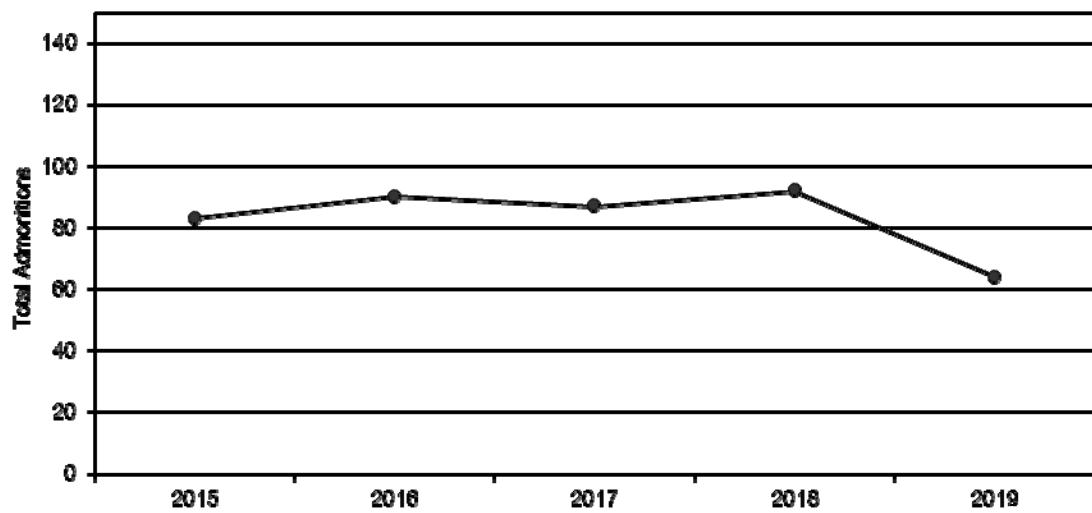
### **Suspensions**



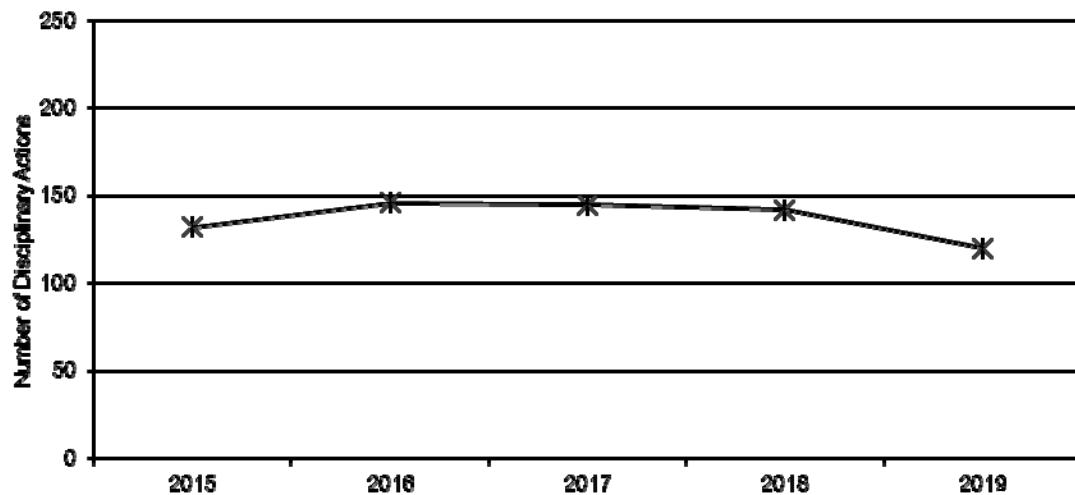
### **Reprimands**



### **Admonitions**



### Total Disciplinary Actions



*In 2019, there were a total of (120) disciplinary actions including admonitions and formal discipline matters.*

The total number of complaints opened as formal investigations during 2019 was 763. The most common complaint areas are as follows:

<b>NATURE OF VIOLATIONS *</b>	<b>NO.</b>
Rule 4-1.4 (Communication)	324
Rule 4-1.3 (Diligence)	301
Rule 4-8.4(c) (Dishonesty, Fraud, Deceit, Misrepresentation)	174
Rule 4-1.15 (Safekeeping Property)	139
Rule 4-3.8 (Prosecutorial Responsibility)	89
Rule 4-1.5 (Excessive Fees)	80
Rule 4-1.16 (Improper Withdrawal)	69
Rule 4-1.7 (Conflicts)	38
Rule 4-1.1 (Competence)	24
Rule 4-3.3 (Truth to Tribunal)	19
Rule 4-5.3(b) (Supervisory Responsibility)	18
Rule 4-1.6 (Confidentiality)	14
Rule 4-5.5 (Unauthorized Practice)	14
Rule 4-7.2 (Advertising)	12
Rule 4-8.4(b) (Criminal Activity)	10
Rule 4-4.2 (Communication with Person Represented by Counsel)	8
Rule 4-1.2 (Client Directives)	6
Rule 4-3.4 (Obstruction/False Evidence)	5
Rule 4-3.5(b) (Ex Parte Contacts)	4
Rule 4-1.16(a)(2) (Incapacitated Lawyer)	3
Rule 4-3.6 (Trial Publicity)	2
Rule 4-4.1 (Truth to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Persons)	2
Rule 4-4.3 (Dealing with Unrepresented Person)	2
Rule 4-8.2 (Judicial and Legal Officials)	2
Rule 4-8.1(c) (Failure to Cooperate)	1

\* Many complaints included more than one allegation.

The most prevalent practice areas which resulted in investigations are as follows:

<b>AREA OF PRACTICE *</b>	<b>NO.</b>
Criminal	209
Domestic	149
Torts	80
Other	78
Estate/Probate	47
Bankruptcy/Receivership	24
Workers Compensation	23
Contracts	20
Real Property	18
Administrative/Governmental	16
Immigration/Naturalization	14
Litigation	11
Labor Law	10
Traffic	7
Corporate/Banking	5
Collections	4
Juvenile	3
Landlord/Tenant	3

\* Investigations involving trust account overdraft notifications made to the OCDC are not included in this tabulation.

Dated at the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel at Jefferson City, Missouri this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALAN D. PRATZEL  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

## **LEGAL ETHICS COUNSEL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019**

### **I. LEGAL ETHICS COUNSEL'S ROLE**

#### **A. Informal Advisory Opinions**

Pursuant to Rule 5.30(c), the Legal Ethics Counsel issues nonbinding informal advisory opinions.

The Legal Ethics Counsel office provided 1,381 oral informal advisory opinions via telephone. Many of these opinions involved multiple questions. Opinions given in conjunction with informal contact at bar meetings and CLE programs are generally not included in this count.

The Legal Ethics Counsel office provided 32 written informal advisory opinions.

The Legal Ethics Counsel office also is conducting a comprehensive review of formerly published informal advisory opinions to ensure accuracy and relevance. This will be an ongoing project.

#### **B. CLE Presentations**

The Legal Ethics Counsel office prepared and gave 15 CLE presentations for various groups including: The Missouri Bar, Cole County Bar Association, and National Organization of Bar Counsel.

### **II. ROLE OF THE LEGAL ETHICS COUNSEL TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Rule 5.07(b) provides that the Legal Ethics Counsel shall serve as staff to the Advisory Committee.

#### **A. Review Summaries**

Pursuant to Rule 5.12, the Advisory Committee reviews investigation files if the OCDC or a Regional Disciplinary Committee finds no probable cause and the complainant requests review. The Legal Ethics Counsel office summarized and distributed 70 review files to the Advisory Committee.

## **B. Hearings**

The Legal Ethics Counsel office provided assistance with arrangements for hearings, as requested, to Disciplinary Hearing Officers.

The Legal Ethics Counsel administered the hearing process to assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee. As part of this process, the Legal Ethics Counsel proposed hearing panels, provided the file to the hearing panel once the panel was approved by the Chair, monitored the progress of the hearing, and assisted the hearing officers with issues that arose during the course of the process. 22 Informations were filed in 2019.

Rule 5.16 provides, in part:

- (e) The written decision of the disciplinary hearing panel shall be filed with the chair of the advisory committee. The chair shall review the panel's decision for the limited purpose of determining that the recommendation for discipline, if any, conforms to this Rule 5 and the sanctions established by the Court. If the chair of the advisory committee determines that the panel's recommendation does not conform, the chair shall direct the disciplinary hearing panel to reconsider its recommendation for discipline. After reconsideration, the panel shall file the revised written decision with the chair of the advisory committee.
- (f) The chair of the advisory committee shall serve the written decision of the disciplinary hearing panel by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on the respondent, the counsel for the informant, and the chief disciplinary counsel.

The Legal Ethics Counsel performed the majority of these duties on behalf of, and in consultation with, the Chair.

## **C. Budget**

The Legal Ethics Counsel prepared a proposed budget for the Advisory Committee and LEC office for 2020.

## **D. Meetings**

The Legal Ethics Counsel office coordinated arrangements for regular Advisory Committee meetings. The Legal Ethics Counsel office prepared agendas and meeting materials, and also prepared the minutes for these meetings.

## **E. Formal Opinions**

The Legal Ethics Counsel provided assistance to the Advisory Committee in relation to reviewing requests for formal opinions and possible appropriate topics for formal opinions in accordance with Rule 5.30(a).

## **F. Overdraft Reporting/Financial Institution Approval**

Beginning January 1, 2010, Missouri attorneys were required to have their trust accounts at financial institutions “approved” by the Advisory Committee. In order to be approved, the financial institution must enter into an agreement to report insufficient funds situations that arise on attorneys’ trust accounts to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel. The Legal Ethics Counsel handled issues related to bank name changes, mergers, etc., as they relate to approved status. The Legal Ethics Counsel maintained a list of approved banks on the office website.

## **G. Other matters**

The Legal Ethics Counsel office maintained a website for the Advisory Committee and Legal Ethics Counsel, [www.mo-legal-ethics.org](http://www.mo-legal-ethics.org). The website includes a list of pending disciplinary matters, a calendar of upcoming disciplinary hearings, information on public access to disciplinary records pursuant to Rule 5.31, articles and CLE materials on legal ethics issues prepared by the Legal Ethics Counsel office, and links to various resources. The Legal Ethics Counsel office continues to develop resource pages for lawyers on specific ethics topics that are posted on its website. The Legal Ethics Counsel office also wrote articles for publication in the *Journal of the Missouri Bar*.

Additionally, the Legal Ethics Counsel served on the Planning Committee for The Missouri Bar’s Solo & Small Firm Conference and served as President for the National Organization of Bar Counsel for 2018-19 and Immediate Past President for 2019-2020.